

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2913
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
INVOLVEMENT OF SERVICE HQRS. IN DECISION MAKING
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Defence (2006-2007) in their Twenty-second Report (14th Lok Sabha) recommended that the Service Headquarters may be involved in decision-making process; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2913 FOR ANSWER ON 3.9.2007

Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) 2006-07, has made the following observations related to involvement of Service Headquarters in decision making in para 2.6 of its 22nd Report which reads as follows:

"Para 2.6: The Committee note that the Group of Ministers (GoM) had recommended that there was a need to progressively decentralize decision making and delegate powers to the Service Headquarters, wherever feasible. This process was expected to ensure greater speed, higher levels of efficiency and accountability. The Committee are informed that the Ministry had taken a number of steps to involve Service Headquarters actively in decision making and had delegated financial and administrative powers to them. The Committee have been informed that financial powers delegated to the Service were enhanced in 2002 and again in 2006. The powers to incur expenditure under the capital head upto Rs.10 crores have been delegated to the Vice-Chiefs for the first time in 2006."

2. Against the backdrop of observations made in para 2.6, the Standing Committee has made certain recommendations regarding further delegation of powers to Services, which are under consideration. However, it is added that the decision making in Ministry of Defence, especially in the context of procurement is based on a system of greater interaction of Service Headquarters with Ministry of Defence. There has been a consistent approach to delegate more financial powers to Service Headquarters facilitating greater decentralization of decision-making to Services Headquarters. In other areas also due consideration of the views of Service Headquarters is given while assessing or coming to a decision.